**Welcome to OUR SAVIOUR’S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

343 Scott Street, Ripon Wisconsin *(920) 748-2544*

[*www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com*](http://www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com)

Christmas One Dec. 27, 2020

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*\* All who are able please stand L: Leader; P: People*

Prelude Accompanist: Craig Bowden

Words of Welcome and Good News

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,
**P: God is there.**

L: When they present Jesus at the temple,
**P: God is there.**

L: When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,
**P: God is there.**

L: When Anna recognizes Jesus as the answer to prayer,
**P: God is there.**

L: This very morning,
**P: God is here.**

L: In the future we cannot see,
**P: God is there. Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN: “Angels from the Realms of Glory” R91/Projected

\*INVOCATION

**ALL: O God, in the sweetness of the story we tell today, the encounter of old and young--Mary and Joseph presenting Jesus to the elders--We feel the movement of your Spirit making all things new. Awake us to your presence in this moment as we seek Christ in our midst: Let us recognize God-with-us, a light to the nations, your glory revealed. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.**

RESPONSE & INVITATION: “Spirit of the Living God”

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

WITNESS OF FAITH: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

WITNESS OF FAITH: Psalm 148

CALL TO CONFESSION

L: We live as if Christ had never been born. We abuse the privileges

that are ours as children of God. Let us confess our sin before God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Holy God, we know that you have been present to us throughout all of history, even throughout our own histories. We know you will be with us in our future. Yet often we don’t live as if we know that.**

**As Simeon recognized in Jesus the salvation of his people, we recognize in Jesus’ Way our own wholeness and health, yet we often fail to follow.**

**As Anna recognized in Jesus the redemption of her people, we recognize in Jesus God’s saving grace for us, yet we often fail to rejoice and to share this good news.**

**Forgive us, make us wise and joyful and strong so that we live in the understanding of your never-ending love. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: The scriptures promise that God will make all things new. As God makes the year new, may we also be made new by God’s love. In Jesus’ name your sins are forgiven. Amen.

**P: Thanks be to God!**

Passing of the Peace [Due to safety issues, Rev. Mundell will give a blessing]

WITNESS OF FAITH: Galatians 4:4-7

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:22-40

LEARNING WITH OUR CHILDREN

 “Jesus is dedicated” animated

A FAREWELL LITANY FOR JESSICA GEISTHARDT RN Insert/Projected

\*STATEMENT OF FAITH: Adaptation of Colossians 1:15-20 Projected

 **Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in Christ all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities-all things were created through Christ and for Christ. Christ is before all things, and in Christ all things hold together. Christ is the head of the body, the church; Christ is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything Christ might be preeminent. For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Christ all things are reconciled to God, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of Christ’s Cross**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place**

**I can feel God’s mighty power and God’s Grace**

 **I can hear the brush of angel’s wings**

 **I see glory on each face**

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place**

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Prayer of Our Savior:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts,**

**as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,**

**and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

HYMN: “Noel” Chris Tomlin ft. Lauran Daigle Projected

MEDITATION: “Through God” Rev. Kevin Mundell

HYMN: “The First Nowell” R100/Projected

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

[Offering plates are located near the sanctuary entrances.]

L: God, you call us to give as we have received In this Christmas Season when you have shared your Child with us, help us to share our blessing with those in need.

OFFERTORY

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**ALL: God of Vision, take these offerings of money and turn them into vision; vision of all people fed, vision of all people safe, vision of all people housed, vision of all people educated. Amen.**

\*BENEDICTION: “Go Now In Peace”

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know he will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

\*Postlude

**A FAREWELL LITANY FOR JESSICA GEISTHARDT RN**

**GREETING**

L: Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share the time of farewell with our parish nurse and friend Jessica Geisthardt RN who is leaving.

**REMEMBRANCE AND RECOGNITION**

**ENDING AN AUTHORIZED MINISTRY**

L: On January 25, 2019, this local church called Nurse Jessica Geisthardt to serve as our parish nurse.

*Nurse Jess: I thank Our Saviour’s UCC, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last 2 years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.*

**P: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.**

*Nurse Jess: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.*

**\*VOWS OF RELEASE**

L: Do you, the members and friends of Our Saviour’s UCC release Nurse Jessica from the duties of our Parish Nurse?

**P: We do, with the help of God.**

L: Do you offer your encouragement for *her/his* ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

P: We do, with the help of God.

L: Do you, Nurse Jessica, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?

*Nurse Jess: I do, with the help of God.*

L: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and on the relationship with another who will come to serve?

*Nurse Jess: I do, with the help of God.*

Council Representative: On behalf of Our Saviour’s church council and church members, I witness to the words spoken: words of thankfulness, forgiveness, and release. We want to thank you for your ministry with us and will hold you in our prayers.

P: Thanks be to God.

**PRAYER**

L: Let us pray.

**ALL: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

L: Go now, surrounded by our love and led by the promises of God, the presence of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***TODAY’S BULLETIN IS :***

*In Memory of Dave Gittens; Given by Pat Gittens.*

*In Memory of Clarence Schwandt, Given by Edna Schwandt*

**THIS WEEK’S COMING EVENTS**

**Sun. Dec. 27 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary - 1st Sunday of Christmas**

 **10:15 am Sunday School (No Adult Ed)**

**Mon. Dec. 28 Office open 10-Noon.**

**Tues.**  **Dec. 29 Office open 10-Noon.**

**Wed. Dec. 30 Office open 10-Noon.**

 **No Confirmation**

**Thurs. Dec. 31 Office closed. New Year’s Eve**

 **6:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship in Sanctuary & Communion**

**Friday Jan. 1 Office Closed. New Year’s Day**

**Sun. Jan. 3 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary & Communion – 2nd Sunday of Christmas**

 **10:15 am Sunday School (No Adult Ed)**

**FUTURE COMING EVENTS**

**Thurs. Jan. 7 6:30 pm Worship in Sanctuary**

**Sun. Jan. 10 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary - 3rd Sunday of Christmas**

 **10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Ed**

**LOOSE COIN UPDATE:** We are still using the loose coins in the offering plate for special projects. You can still give by specifying on the envelope that it is for Stewardship loose coin offering. Thanks to all for your continued support.

**DRIVE THRU COMMUNION:** First Sunday of each month from 10:30 am- 11:00 am. The next drive-thru communion will take place Sunday January 3rd. December we had 29 participants.

**WORSHIP & COMMUNION:** We will continue with 2-worship services/week and offer communion both in the “sanctuary” and via “drive-thru”. Through January for sure and longer, if helpful.

**STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE REMINDER:** Please bring to worship or send in your pledge card to the church office. Thank you for your continued support of Our Saviour’s UCC. Results to date: Total of 60 pledges have been received for the amount of $91,653. Gen. Fund $75,919. Capital Imp. $8,620. OCWM $7,114

**WELCOME TO OUR SERVICE TODAY!**

We welcome all visitors and guests, and we are glad you can join us for our services.

**Large print bulletins and regular bulletins are available in the vestibule and online, if you would like one mailed to you, please let us know. Weekly hymns are being printed and some are available in the vestibule by the bulletins.**

9:00 am Worship: Podcasted and video at [www.oursavioursuccripon.com](http://www.oursavioursuccripon.com/) & airs at 11:00 am on 1600 WRPN. Also available on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

**Pastor** Rev. Dr. Kevin Mundell revdrmundell@me.com 920-385-8990

**Parish Nurse** SSM Health ended their Parish Nurse Program, and Nurse, Jessica also ended her time with us. We are in the process of discerning our next steps.

**Admin. Assistant** To be Determined osuccripon1@gmail.com 920-748-2544

**Custodian** Rick Stracy rlstracy@gmail.com 920-229-1367

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**  The office hours are: Mon-Thurs. 10-noon. If you need to get into church at an unopen time, please call the church office and leave a message.

**PARISH NURSE HOURS:** Nurse Jess’ last day was Dec. 22. We are discerning the future of the program.

**Sunday Worship Team 9:00 am**

**Audio Operator:** Kelly Mundell **Liturgist:** Confirmand

**Acolyte:**  **Organist:** Craig Bowden

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**CONTRIBUTIONS & ATTENDANCE FOR LAST WEEK**: Attendance: Thurs: 35 Sunday: 28

General Fund: $ 4,376 Capital Improvements: $225.50 OCWM: $179.50

Thank you so much for your continued support of mailed in and online contributions. It means so much to us during this time.

**FEB. MESSENGER:** The deadline is Jan. 15th.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** If any of your contact information changes, please let the office know as soon as possible. Thank you.

***Birthday Greetings to our Young at Heart (age 50+)***

***Shirley Grams,*** *December. 27* ***Timothy Graff,*** *December 29* ***Frederick Malzahn****, December 29*

***Delores Retzlaff,*** *December 31* ***Connie Turner,****December 31*

**GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**ALTAR & ORGAN FLOWERS; RADIO BROADCAST; BULLETIN SIGN-UP:** 2021 Sign-up is available on the stand outside of the office! This sign-up is for ALL SPONSORSHIPS! Altar flowers are $25 and Organ flowers are $16 each. Radio Broadcasts are $50 per sponsor & $25 per sponsor per bulletin. You can also send a letter with payment into the office or call the office to sign up. Please remember to send payment in for your signed-up slots.

**MISSIONS COMMITTEE NOTES:** Smoke Alarm Install. – rescheduled for hopefully next spring. Please watch bulletins and messengers to stay up to date. Thank you.

**NURSE JESS NOTE:** As we are all entering in on a fresh journey come this New Year of 2021, we have no idea what this year will bring. Nothing reminds us of unexpected circumstances more than 2020 does. Each trial, each joy, each individual experience is all adding to your unique, important story. Yes, you have a story to tell. There are actually three stories. Your story, my story, and HIS story. Taking time to reflect on this past year, some questions to ask yourself may be: How is your story intertwining with others? And how do others see Him in your deeds, your love, your attitude? These small, what seem like mundane actions can be channels to show God’s love. No matter how miniscule, your story needs to be read and shared! Our wounds and brokenness are what connects us and shows others what a mighty God we serve. All around us God is directing an orchestra and we are all one small part of it. We each have our roles in telling out God’s good news of salvation, peace, and love. So…What’s your story?

Happy New Year Everyone! May God’s blessings and peace surround you in the coming year.

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** If you are interested in contributing to worship with some form of special music, please talk to Craig Bowen or David Thompson. We can even record the piece in the sanctuary and insert the recording into our services for safety if need be.

**PARISH NURSE ANNOUNCEMENT:** Nurse, Jess is ending her time with us, and we celebrate her, during the Sunday Dec. 27th worship service.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:** Volunteers will be filling-in at the church office, until we hire a replacement for the position. The Council has placed an advertisement in local shoppers and newspapers to find a new person for the position. If you are interested in volunteering to help out, please let any of our church council members know. Thank you.

**2021 ENVELOPE BOXES READY FOR PICK-UP:** “Contribution Envelope Boxes” are located in the East Narthex, near the carport entry door. You can access them safely, without interacting with another person, anytime the church office is open. Also, you can pick-up your box if you come to a worship service. The boxes are in alphabetical order by last name. NOTE: Envelope Numbers have all been changed to allow reducing the number of boxes we need to order. Revising numbers will save cost of 120 boxes next year.

NEW: You can also receive your box, if you ask, when you participate in Drive-thru-Communion. Helpers will be available to locate your box and hand it to Pastor, Kevin.

**LIVE STREAMING:** Rev. Mundell has successfully accomplished “live streaming” of every worship service, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on Thursdays, and from 9:00am to 10:00am on Sundays. If you go to the video podcast section of our website or our YouTube page or our Facebook page you should be able to follow along with the service as it is happening in the sanctuary. Immediately, after each service, a recording of the service is available on all three sites.

If there is a problem with the Live Stream, let us know, because we may be able to manually put an audio or video recording up on our OSUCC website.

**PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY:** Feel free to use our prayer chain ministry by contacting Caroline Retzlaff at 920-748-2367.

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Barb Schultz, Billi Kaufman, Ed Vande Brink, Bill Waltenberry, Roger Fenner, Lorraine Fischer, Len Quinn, Kay Quinn, Steve McSorley, Bob Schouten, Caroline Sowersby, Christine Krueger, Mary Albright, Gladys Wilkes, 12 unspoken, and all others.